



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

March 4, 2014

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Subject: SR 997/SW 177<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Krome Avenue South., Dade County, Florida, Draft  
Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)  
Financial Project Number: 249614-4-22-01  
Docket Number: FHW A-FLA-EIS-13-01-D

Dear Ms. Boucle:

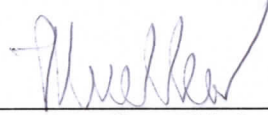
Thank you for your interagency coordination efforts on a proposed project. Pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the US EPA Region 4 has evaluated the consequences of the FDOT/FHWA proposal to construct a roadway improvements for SR 997/Krome Avenue, in Dade County, Florida.

This project proposes roadway and safety improvements along a ten-mile segment of SR 997/SW 177th Avenue/Krome Avenue from SW 296111 Street (Avocado Drive) to SW 136111 Street (Howard Drive) in Miami-Dade County, Florida. The existing facility is a two-lane undivided rural roadway. The proposed action is to improve safety by providing four-lane divided rural and suburban sections, additional capacity, and implementing access management criteria.

Enclosed are comments on the DEIS. Based on our review of the DEIS, EPA assigned a rating of "LO" to the document. Our review has identified the need for some additional information in the DEIS but no substantive change to the preferred alternative. Subsurface contamination and community cohesion are the two areas that we request additional information be provided in the FEIS.

The USEPA Region 4 requests a hard copy of the document be sent to our Regional Office for the official record. It is the USEPA policy to have at least one hard copy of the environmental documents maintained in the Regional records. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS. If you have questions on our comments or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Maher Budeir at (404) 562-9514 or [budeir.maher@epa.gov](mailto:budeir.maher@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Mueller', is written over a horizontal line.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief  
NEPA Program Office  
Office of Environmental Accountability

Enclosure 1: Comments on SR997/SW 177<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Krome Avenue South DEIS.

## **Enclosure 1: EPA Comments**

### **SR 997/ SW 177<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Krome Avenue South, Dade County, Florida**

Based on our review of the DEIS, the USEPA concurs with the selection of the preferred alternative. The following two areas need further information to ensure impacts are minimized and managed properly:

#### ***Subsurface Contamination:***

Based on information in the EIS, several contaminated properties will or have impact on right of way. Construction activities under all the build options will likely result in subsurface contamination impacts. In addition to the measures mentioned in the EIS, the USEPA recommends having contingencies in place to identify, assess, and properly manage contaminated media and/or hazardous waste or materials that may be encountered during construction, dewatering, or any subsurface activities. All hazardous waste and contaminated media management should be in full compliance with federal, state, and local regulations and guidelines.

#### ***Community Cohesion:***

The improvements include significantly widening the segment of the road which is likely to have some impact in terms of cohesion between elements of the community on each side of the road. However, this impact is offset by a positive impact of improved safety and by providing better facility for bicycles and other modes of transportation. Several relocations are anticipated under all alternatives. Under the preferred alternative 5 businesses, 4 residences, and one personal property are projected to be relocated. While this impact is not minimal, all other build alternatives seem to be in the same or greater range of relocations.

Considering the scope of the project (10 mile segment) and the impacts of each of the alternatives, EPA concurs with the preferred alternatives and recommends continuing to seek opportunities to minimize the footprint of the project in future phases.